

I-95 Corridor Planning & Finance Study

# I-95 Background



- 1950s-1980s: I-95 built in NC
- 2003: Tolling feasibility study
- 2006: TIP Project I-4745
- 2009: I-95 Corridor Planning & Finance Study

# Need for Proposed Study driving



- Pinpoint deficiencies & needs of I-95
- Create a master plan for corridor improvements
- Streamline development of future projects

# Proposed Study



- Two consultants: Baker & PBS&J
- Project Elements:
  - Environmental Screening
  - Traffic Forecast Model
  - Public Involvement
  - Needs Assessment
  - Alternatives Analysis
  - Financial Model
  - Phasing & Implementation Plan

## **Environmental Screening**



- High level screening for:
  - Wetlands
  - Cultural resources
  - Historic properties
- Demographics analysis

### Traffic Model



- Comprehensive model will provide:
  - Existing and future (2035) traffic volumes
  - Vehicle type (cars vs trucks)
  - Type of trips (regional vs. local)
  - Tolling effect on traffic (Diversion potential)

#### Public Involvement



Website: <a href="http://driving95.com">http://driving95.com</a>

Social media: Facebook & Twitter

• Hotline: 1-(877)-I95-VIEW

• Brochures & posters

- Local Officials meetings January 2010
- Editorial Board meetings March 2010
- Public meetings Summer 2010 & Fall 2011

#### Needs Assessment



- Determine existing condition & future needs of:
  - Pavement
  - Structures (bridges/overpasses)
  - Traffic Capacity
  - Roadway safety
  - Drainage

## **Alternatives Analysis**



- Develop preliminary improvement alternatives:
  - Number of lanes
  - Median width
  - Approximate right of way
- Eliminate impracticable alternatives
- Provide preliminary cost estimates

### Financial Model



- Evaluate multiple funding options
  - Traditional funding
  - Tolling
    - Toll at borders
    - Toll all lanes
    - Toll new lanes
    - Etc.
  - Local option tax
  - Etc.
- Determine construction timeframes based on funding availability

# Tolling



- Considerations:
  - Open road tolling
  - Managed lanes
  - Enforcement
  - Interoperability
  - Federal/state requirements
  - Local use/Impacts
  - Reinvestment of toll revenue

## Legislation – HB 1245



#### Task:

- NCDOT to study tolling at the borders on interstates.
- I-95 was used as a study sample.

#### • Results:

- Border tolling won't generate sufficient revenue.
  - Produces enough to build 1 mile/year
  - Won't really address long-term needs
- Tolling entire corridor will produce significantly more revenue than border tolling.
  - Produces more than 10 times revenue of border tolling (approx. 20 years to reconstruct all of I-95)
- Possible interstate commerce issues

## Study Deliverables



- Completed study & recommendations
- Traffic Forecast Model
- Financial Model
- Phasing & Implementation Plan
  - Programming to Construction

## **Project Timeline**



Project Kickoff

October 2009

Public Involvement

**Project duration** 

Needs Assessment

Winter through Spring 2010

Financing

Fall 2011

Completed Study

Fall 2011

## Cooperative Efforts



- I-95 Corridor Coalition
- Corridors of the Future Program
- Coordination with border states (VA & SC)
- NC Turnpike Authority
- FHWA
- Alliance for Toll Interoperability (ATI)
- Local officials & citizens
- Road users



